

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 06065 232150Z

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ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-05 SWF-02 IGA-02 RSC-01 DRC-01

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R 230755Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3716

UNCLAS MANILA 6065

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: SMALL-SCALE IRRIGATION

1. AFTER CAREFUL REVIEW HERE, INCLUDING DISCUSSIONS DENNIS CHANDLER, USAID BELIEVES MOST PROMISING APPROACH TO ARRIVING AT JOINT GOP-USAID-AID/W PROPOSAL FOR SMALL-SCALE IRRIGATION ACTIVITY WOULD BE TO AUGMENT USAID FIELD STAFF TO WORK ON A FULL-TIME BASIS WITH TDY TEAMS/SPECIALISTS AID CAN PROVIDE AND WITH SEVERAL PHILIPPINE AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH IRRIGATION (FOCUS-ING BOTH ON MANAGEMENT AND FACILITIES).

2. OUR MINIMUM REQUIREMENT CALLS FOR ASSIGNMENT OF ONE IRRIGATION SPECIALIST (DIRECT-HIRE OR CONTRACT) ON A FULL-TIME BASIS (WITHIN OVERALL MISSION CEILING) FOR UP TO TWO YEARS AS PART OF MISSION STAFF WITH ACCESS TO SHORT-TERM TDY EXPERTISE ON AN AS-REQUIRED BASIS.

3. WE DISCUSSED WITH CHANDLER OUR PLAN OF PROCEEDING WITH EXPLORATORY/DEVELOPMENT WORK PER ABOVE INSTEAD OF ATTEMPTING TO DRAW UP A TIGHTLY TARGETED AND SPECIFIC PROJECT PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME. THIS APPLIED TO PILOT PROJECT AS WELL AS PROSPECTIVE LOAN PROGRM. THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEANINGFUL SMALL-SCALE IRRIGATION EXPANSION HERE IS A COMMON OBJECTIVE OF AID/W AND USAID. OUR EXPERIENCE OVER YEARS IN PHILIPPINES AS UNCLASSIFIED

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WELL AS OUR EXPERIENCE TDY VISITORS PERSUADES US WE

WILL NOT BE ABLE PRODUCE A VIABLE WELL-CONSTRUCTED PROPOSAL THROUGH THE VISITING TEAM APPROACH. WE BELIEVE HAVING A MAN HERE ON THE GROUND ON A FULL-TIME BASIS IS BEST WAY TO DEVELOP THE RELATIONSHIPS NEEDED TO GET THINGS STARTED IN RESPONSIBLE FASHION. THIS APPROACH HAS WORKED SUCCESSFULLY IN OTHER PROJECT AREAS IN THE PHILIPPINES. WE WISH AVOID BECOMING "LOCKED-IN" TO ANY KIND OF PROJECT DESIGN WITHOUT ADEQUATE PREPARATION. SMALL-SCALE IRRIGATION PROBLEM IS A MAJOR ONE, BUT BEST DIRECTION TO TAKE IN MEETING THAT PROBLEM IS UNCLEAR. WE BELIEVE HAVING IRRIGATION SPECIALIST ASSIGNED TO USAID TO EXPLORE POTENTIAL FOR USAID SUPPORT IS BEST MEANS COMING UP WITH PROGRAM THAT MEETS AID/W-USAID AND GOP OBJECTIVES.

4. REQUEST AID/W APPROVAL ABOVE COURSE OF ACTION.
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